28th November 1928]

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the Government have at all considered at any time, the matter contained in my question ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Certainly ; it was never absent from our consideration."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know at what stage the consideration now stands in view of the fact that the Simon Commission will be upon us within about 2½ months from now, and whether the Government have advanced any steps in that consideration beyond being merely obsessed by it, that never being absent from their minds ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I cannot indicate stages of consideration."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if the Government have any proposals for asking anybody outside the Executive Council, the Ministers, to give evidence on behalf of the Government before the Commission ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The Government do not propose to ask the Ministers ; it is a matter for the Ministers themselves."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Do not the Government include the Ministers."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Yes."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Reforms is a reserved portfolio ; may I ask whether the Government, who are considering this matter and cannot throw light on the stages of consideration, include the transferred half also or whether ' Government ' here means reserved half, Reforms being a reserved subject ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The Government as a whole."

Evidence before the Simon Commission.

*757-B Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether Ministers or any of them propose to give oral evidence before the Simon Commission ;

(b) if so, the lines of that evidence ; and

(c) whether they intend taking the opinion of the Council on those lines and, if not, why not ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The hon. the Ministers have not informed this Government of either their views or intentions on the matters referred to.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" The answer is, Sir : ' The hon. the Ministers have not informed this Government of either their views or intentions on the matters referred to." May I know what the words ' this Government ' there means ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Owing to my bad handwriting, Sir, I think ' this ' has been copied for ' the.' "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Then, may I know, Sir, if there is a practice in the Madras Government for a part of the Government to inform the Government by means of written communications as regards certain important matters covered by this question ? ".

[28th November 1928

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"The question is whether the Ministers propose to give evidence before the Commission. They have not said so or noted so, and there is nothing on record."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know whether the hon. the Ministers are free, under the conventions and the rules under which this Government function in this province, to give evidence without reference to the Government as a whole?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"That is a constitutional question, and I should like to have notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know if, as a body, the Government makes up its mind to give evidence or not to give evidence, whether the hon. the Ministers are bound by that decision or whether they are free to act?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"That is asking for an opinion."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Then I will ask for a fact. May I know if in a joint consideration to which the hon. the Revenue Member referred in the answer to a previous supplementary question, the hon. the Ministers have communicated at any time any views or intentions about their giving evidence before the Simon Commission?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"The question is answered in 757-B. They have not said so."

Special allowances for members of the committee elected by the Council for conferring with the Statutory Commission.

*757-C Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the members elected by the Council for conferring with the Indian Statutory Commission have asked for the grant of any special allowances; and, if so, whether their request has been granted by the Government; and

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House the correspondence on the subject?

A.—(a) & (b) The appended[a] extract from a letter written by the Chief Secretary to Government to the Secretary of the Committee gives the information asked for.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I refer to the last sentence of the appendix? It says: 'The Committee, moreover, is one appointed by the Legislative Council and it appears to the Government appropriate that the allowances granted to its Chairman and Members should be those ordinarily admissible to the M.L.Cs. when employed on the work of committees so appointed.' May I know why the words 'it appears' occur there? Is it the opinion of the Government?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"That is the natural meaning of the words."

---

a Printed as Appendix I at page 361 infra.